

TRIBUTE TO AL LIPSCOMB

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 18, 2011, the people of Dallas, Texas and the United States suffered a great loss with the passing of Al Lipscomb. Al Lipscomb was a strong community leader, businessman and a devoted public servant. He was never afraid of controversy; he was a true advocate for peace, racial justice, and social equality. He was 86 years old.

Mr. Lipscomb was born in East Dallas. He was educated in the Dallas public schools, attending Booker T. Washington High School and graduating from Lincoln High. He joined the Army Air Force in California with the military police in 1943. He returned to Dallas in 1950, married and became the head waiter in the executive dining room of the First National Bank. He was reprimanded by his boss after going to the courthouse to watch Thurgood Marshall file a Dallas school desegregation case.

In 1966, he became a neighborhood organizer for the Dallas Community Action Agency. He was also an organizer for the Dallas chapter of Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Al Lipscomb is known for filing a groundbreaking lawsuit that forced Dallas to elect council members by individual districts. He served on the city council for 15 years and was the first black person to run for Dallas mayor.

In 1972, Mr. Lipscomb opened the South Dallas Information Center on Pennsylvania Avenue, where he handled a constant stream of phone calls and questions from passersby seeking assistance. The center was supported by donations. He also kept a high profile by making the rounds at public meetings, asking tough questions, and offering suggestions.

In 1984, he was elected to the City Council and became a vocal critic of the Dallas Police Department's treatment of minorities. And in the late 1980s, Mr. Lipscomb and Ms. Diane Ragsdale—the only black members of the council—drew national media attention and local death threats. Despite the hostilities toward him, he remained both a critic and a skeptic of the city he loved. "I see a great change," he said. "I see a great change, a change for the better."

Al was a man of great commitment. He provided tremendous support for me as a public official. I am deeply grateful for his counsel, support, assistance, and unquestionable trusted friendship.

I remember him as being extremely affable, charismatic, and passionate about the needs of community. For all of us he was as one of the most accessible elected officials, always available to listen and reach out to us in addressing complex issues in a hands-on and collaborative fashion.

Today, Texas's 30th Congressional District salutes and honors Al Lipscomb. We thank Mr. Lipscomb's wife, Lovie, his children, and his grandchildren for sharing his exuberant and compassionate spirit with us. His family was always supportive and understanding of his commitment. His fight for justice and

equality should not, can not, and will not be forgotten.

HONORING NATHAN CHARLES DARRAH**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Charles Darrah. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 692, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Nathan reclaimed and built over a mile of hiking trail around Lake Jacomo in Jackson County, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan Charles Darrah for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL DONALD C. WURSTER, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Lieutenant General Donald C. Wurster upon his retirement from the United States Air Force.

For over 38 years of service to our nation, Lieutenant General Donald Wurster lived the core values of Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. On June 24, 2011 General Wurster relinquishes command of Air Force Special Operations Command and leaves behind a hallmark of accomplishments generated through his leadership of some of America's finest men and women.

Since his graduation from the United States Air Force Academy, he has been a part of some of the most dynamic changes in airpower's history. Along the way, General Wurster's vision and leadership helped usher in some of the most unique warfighting capabilities in the Air Force. From counter-insurgency leadership to building aviation programs that provided national power any time, any place, his legacy will remain one of steadfast dedication.

As a tip-of-the-spear helicopter pilot, General Wurster amassed more than 4,000 flying hours, including assignments in both rescue and special operations. During his career, he commanded special operations units at the

squadron, group, wing, joint task force, sub-unified command, and finally Air Force major command level where he led over 16,000 personnel executing missions across the globe in support of national interests and objectives.

Throughout his career, his wife Ronda has been there every step of the way. For over the three and a half decades, Ronda supported her husband, their growing family, and the fellow men and women who have chosen to wear the uniform as protectors of our nation's freedom. She has been there in times of celebration for graduations, promotions, and unit gatherings, as well as during the difficult times when someone has been lost or injured in the line of duty.

Let it be recognized that in a time of persistent combat and other military operations, the United States Air Force had the right guy, in the right place, at the right time. Furthermore, his leadership and framework for success has helped build a strong following of talented warriors ready to protect our nation.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to congratulate General Wurster on his retirement. My wife Vicki and I wish him and Ronda all the best for continued success.

AGE NOT AN ISSUE FOR BASEBALL'S JACK McKEON**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, many senior citizens who travel to Florida are doing so to enjoy the retired life after years of working while filling their days with hours spent on the beach. Jack McKeon, from the Sixth District of North Carolina, crushes this stereotype as he begins his second term as manager of baseball's Florida Marlins.

McKeon has the full support of his family to leave his home in the town of Elon to return to the world of professional baseball, a move that makes him the second-oldest manager in history. This calculated return comes with pressure as McKeon led the Marlins to the 2003 World Series championship. His age is sometimes criticized, but the 80-year-old McKeon said, "I look at it this way—why should experience get penalized? I've managed since I was 14 years old. I'll probably manage until I'm 95."

Marlins president of baseball operations, Larry Beinfest, said, "It's good to see [McKeon] back. He never really left. We turn to him to help us at a very difficult time." The Florida Marlins seem to be in need of McKeon after a recent 10-game losing streak and the resignation of former manager Edwin Rodriguez. McKeon is passionate and optimistic about his return and has high hopes for the coming season. "I don't need this job," McKeon said, "but I love it."

From one octogenarian to another, and on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Jack McKeon on resuming his duties as manager of the Florida Marlins and wish him the best of luck for the remainder of this season and for however long he wishes to manage. We know that whenever he retires for good, we are sure that it will be in the Sixth District of North Carolina.